

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 020903

10

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 SS-20 PRS-01 INR-10 RSC-01 /047 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP:EB

APPROVED BY EA/P:AHROSEN

----- 032356

R 312133Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 020903

EEMO. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 31 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FOREIGN POLICY RECURS AS MINOR THEME THROUGH PRES. WRITTEN STATE OF UNION MESSAGE, WITH ASIA, ESPECIALLY SEA, MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES. KILPATRICK (WP) REPORTS THAT PRES. PLEDGED CONTINUING US RESPONSIBILITY IN VN, SAID MUST GUARD AGAINST "WASHING OUR HANDS" OF SEA, AND THAT US WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY MIL AND ECON AID TO AREA. US WILL INSIST ON "FULL COMPLIANCE" WITH C-F, INCLUDING FULL ACCOUNTING OF MIAS. PRES. ALSO CLAIMED PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING BETTER RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND IN BRINGING HOME POWS. GREENE (NYDN) COMMENTS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 020903

THAT PRES. HAS REASON TO BE PROUD OF ADVANCING UNDER-

STANDING WITH CHINA AND IN RELEASE OF POWS. GWERTZMAN (NYT) SEES PRES.' STATEMENT THAT US HAS "A RESPONSIBILITY" IN SEA AS ONE OF HIS STRONGEST COMMITMENTS TO MAINTAIN US INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA. OTHER POINTS PRES. MADE INCLUDED HOPE FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA AND STRESS ON STRONGER TIES WITH JAPAN. GWERTZMAN SAYS PRES. SEEMED TO SUGGEST, IN CALL FOR FULL C-F COMPLIANCE, THAT HE WANTS TO KEEP ALIVE POSSIBILITY OF ECON AID TO

DRV; IN PAST SAID THAT SUCH AID MIGHT BE USEFUL TO GET DRV TO ABIDE BY C-F.

2. GVN SENDING PLANE TO HK, WITH HIGH-RANKING CIVILIAN AND MILITARY DELEGATION, TO MEET FIVE SICK AND WOUNDED PARACELS' DEFENDERS, SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED BY PRC TODAY (AP, SUN; PHINQ). GVN MILITARY SOURCES CONFIRM THAT SVN WARSHIPS LANDED TROOPS EQUIPPED FOR LONG STAY ON SPRATLEYS IN PAST FEW DAYS. SAIGON PAPER GIVES NUMBER AT 300. SPRATLEYS CLAIMED BY SVN, PRC AND GRC, AND PHILS (REUTER).

3. GVN POLICE RELEASE NYT SAIGON BUREAU CHIEF MARKHAM AFTER QUESTIONING, BUT TURN OVER HIS FILM AND NOTEBOOKS COVERING VISIT TO VC AREA TO INFO MINISTRY. GVN SPOKESMAN SAYS HE BELIEVES FILM AND NOTEBOOKS WILL BE RETURNED. MARKHAM SAYS HE WAS TREATED COURTEOUSLY (NYT).

4. GETLER (WP) REPORTS THAT FIRST NEW F-5E FIGHTERS WILL GO NEXT MONTH TO SVN (AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES); OBSERVES THAT PLANNED SHIPMENT HAS STIRRED CRITICISM BY OPPONENTS OF ADMIN. VN POLICY. CRITICS CONTEND F-5E IS FAR MORE ADVANCED PLANE THAN F-5A, SO ACTION VIOLATES C-F. PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID THAT "AN F-5 IS AN F-5 IS AN F-5", AND DOD INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO REPLACE "A" WITH "E" MODEL SINCE 1972. PLANS CALL FOR 80 F-5ES FOR SVN IN 1974, AND ANOTHER 70 IN 1975. ALL BUT 18 OF THE F-5AS NOW IN SVN WERE RUSHED THERE, BY "BORROWING" THEM FROM IRAN, ROC AND SK, IN LAST MONTHS BEFORE THE C-F BECAME EFFECTIVE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 020903

5. MCCOMBS FROM SIX MILES SOUTH OF PP DESCRIBES THE BATTLE TO CLEAR ENEMY FROM AREA FROM WHICH ARTILLERY POUNDED CAPITAL UNTIL TWO DAYS AGO. GKR POURED TROOPS INTO REGION, FIGHTING INTENSE AND FREQUENTLY HAND-TO-HAND. ARTILLERY NO LONGER HITS CITY, BUT GUNS NOT CAPTURED OR DESTROYED SO MAY STILL BE CLOSE. GKR SOLDIERS EXHAUSTED, BUT EXCHANGE FIRE WITH REBELS.

MCCOMBS OPINES THAT OVERWHELMING PRESSURE IN THIS AREA WILL ONLY CAUSE REBELS TO CIRCLE TO ANOTHER POINT AND JAB FROM THERE, FOLLOWING PATTERN ESTABLISHED WHEN DRY SEASON STARTED. WESTERN OBSERVERS SEE REBEL MOVES AS SERIES OF SMALL GAINS THAT BRING THEM CLOSER TO STRANGLING CAPITAL, BUT DO NOT SEE SIGNS THAT CITY WILL FALL. SAME OBSERVERS GIVE GKR REASONABLE CHANCE TO SURVIVE DRY SEASON, BUT MCCOMBS BELIEVES THAT

ASSESSMENT COULD CHANGE RAPIDLY IF HEAVY ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT STARTS AGAIN. AFP PP SAYS REBELS HAVE REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN ARTILLERY OUT OF RANGE FOLLOWING KAF STRIKES AND FANK PUSH (NYT).

6. WESTERN SOURCES SAY CAMBODIAN "INSURGENTS" ASKED VC AND NVA FOR DIVISION TO HELP RESUME DRIVE ON PP; COSVN REFUSED BUT AGREED TO SEND "COMMANDO GROUP" (AP NYT, SUN; PHINQ). AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES SAY COSVN TURN-DOWN DUE TO FRICTION BETWEEN VIET AND KHMER COMMUNISTS (AP, SUN; PHINQ). RELIABLE SOURCES SAY REQUEST ENABLES VC TO PRESSURE KHMER REBELS INTO CONCESSIONS, SUCH AS SALE OF RICE AND TRAVEL PRIVILEGES IN THEIR AREA (AP, SUN).

7. GKR ANNOUNCES FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES AS PART OF STATE OF EMERGENCY DECREED BY LON NOL LAST MARCH. BANS MEETINGS OF MORE THAN FIVE, ALLOWS MPS TO MAKE DAYTIME SEARCHES WITHOUT WARRANTS, IMPOSES PRIVATE MAIL CENSORSHIP, PROHIBITS PRIVATE PUBLICATIONS, TIGHTENS PRESS CENSORSHIP AND TRANSFERS IT TO INFO MINISTRY FROM DEFENSE, PERMITS FUNERALS AND RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES ONLY WITH PERMISSION. SOME OBSERVERS SEE RESTRICTIONS AS REACTION TO RECENT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 020903

CRITICISM BY TEACHERS AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (WP; AFP, NYT; PHINQ; UPI, CHITRIB). SOME BUDDHIST MONKS ALSO START "AGITATING" FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH "INSURGENTS" (WP).

8. HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES RESOLUTION OPPOSING US AID, TRADE OR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION FOR NVN OR VC UNTIL SEARCH FOR MIAS PERMITTED. RESOLUTION STATES THAT NVN, VC AND PL HAVE VIOLATED VN AND LAOS C-F AGREEMENTS THAT PERMIT SEARCH FOR GRAVES AND INFO ON MIAS (AP, WP).

JAPAN

9. GAIMUSHO SPOKESMAN SAID THURSDAY THAT FOUR

GUERRILLAS, INCLUDING TWO JAPANESE "RED ARMY" MEMBERS,
SET FIRE TO SHELL OIL INSTALLATION IN SINGAPORE AND
WERE HOLDING SEVERAL HOSTAGES AFTER DEMANDING MEETING
WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR. SINGAPORE REPORTED UNDER
TOTAL NEWS CLAMPDOWN, BUT GOJ CONFIRMED ATTACK THROUGH
ITS EMBASSY. JAPAN ENVOY HAS SEEN LEE KUAN YEW TWICE
AT LEE'S REQUEST. GAIMUSHO QUOTED JAPANESE EMBASSY
SINGAPORE AS SAYING REASON FOR GUERRILLA ACTION WILL
BE ANNOUNCED THROUGH "RED ARMY" HEADQUARTERS IN JAPAN
OR ITS ARAB HEADQUARTERS (REUTER).

10. CHITRIB TOKYO REPORTS BELIEF OF
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE020903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAFF:PP:EB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974011/aaaaasu.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JANUARY 31 EA PRESS SUMMARY INDOCHINA
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005